

9-11-1955

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, August 23-September 16, 1955

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jcs-civil-rights-correspondence>

Preferred Citation

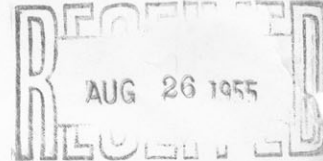
[Title], John C. Stennis Collection. Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John C. Stennis Digital Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Civil Rights Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

Held for Senator
Sen
August 23, 1955

Senator John Stennis,
Armed Forces Committee,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON OFFICE



Dear Sir:

I often wonder if it really does any good to write my Senator or Congress-
man. I can only trust.

I feel that the small man of today is lost in the mad rush of events. I
am sure with the world in such a turmoil, you have many things on your
mind. Things you feel very important. I would like to bring one more,
of the greatest importance, to your attention. Self-respect. Yours,
mine and millions of other Southern White Men!

I feel, through the united effort of the White people in Mississippi,
we shall keep our schools segregated BUT what happens to our sons at the
age of 18? It appears that for the next few generations every boy will
have to serve in the armed forces when he finishes school. In order for
a Southern boy to honorably service HIS country he is forced to give up
his self-respect and heritage. I feel that our Southern Senators and
Congressmen have made the greatest surrender in our history or should
I say they have unwittingly betrayed a trust by allowing clever communist
infiltration to influence that scalawag from Missouri to defeat the entire
South with a few words. If you will just talk to a few young White
Southern boys coming back to civilian life after serving their required
time in the United States BRAINWASHING Service, then you would know
how the South has been surrendered to the negroes and cheap low class
politicians of the North. Unless something is done quickly to give
our boys a chance to serve his 'sentence' with an all-white unit, the
South is gone! Russia's brainwashing is child's play and crude to
that which is being forced on the white youth of this nation - north
and south.

Sir, I urge you to act now. Free these boys - last generation of proud
people. Do not fail them as others have done for the past twenty years.

Respectfully yours,


Natchez, Miss.

cc: Senator James Eastland
Congressman John Bell Williams

CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.
JOHN TENNIS, MISS.
EARLE C. CLEMENTS, KY.

STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.
WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.
EDWARD J. THYE, MINN.
JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY, WIS.
KARL E. MUNDT, S. DAK.
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
HENRY DWORSHAK, IDAHO
EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
CHARLES E. POTTER, MICH.

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
THOMAS J. SCOTT, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

September 8, 1955

[REDACTED]
Natchez, Mississippi

Dear Friend [REDACTED]:

Your letter of August 23rd, addressed to me in Washington and heretofore acknowledged, has just come to my personal attention, and I want to thank you especially for your interest. I deeply appreciate your letter and certainly share your concern and I think you have expressed yourself most clearly and forcefully.

I agree with you 100% and I want to doubly assure you that I have done and I am doing everything that I possibly can regarding this grave and serious problem in our Armed Forces. In my years of service here I have constantly and continually stressed the very point you mention - that our boys have the chance to serve in all-white units.

You will recall that all of these changes have come about through Executive Order as we have always been able to block every single effort made through legislation. The last fight we made on this subject was during this last session of the Congress when our Senate Armed Services Committee unofficially refused to consider the Reserve Bill until the efforts of the other side were abandoned as to integrating the National Guard. Enough of us joined forces in our Committee to force this issue, and to finally force the President himself to issue a statement on the subject. We thus were able to carry our point, but we purposely did not flash this in the newspapers as such action would have decreased our chances of being effective then or in the future. The effort and intent was to force integration in all National Guard Units through this Reserve Bill.

We shall of course continue this battle all the way. It has now come to the point where our strength is largely limited to opposition, however, because we do not have the vote to pass legislation on this subject.

Let me thank you again for your helpful and encouraging letter and I want to assure you of my continued efforts here on all of these matters. I hope that you will always write me on any matter in which you are interested or about which you are concerned. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

Senator

WASHINGTON OFFICE

WASHINGTON OFFICE

September 11, 1955

SEP 15 1955
STENNIS

JOHN STENNIS

Mr. John Stennis
United States Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stennis:

Having just read over your report, dated August 10, 1955, to the people of Mississippi, I am very much disappointed. I see you have worked hard on some issues that are of immediate importance to the people of Mississippi and the nation. I have thought for years you were a man with foresight and courage to back up your thoughts. Today, I wonder if you are not just another politician. After reading your report of August 10, it was very conspicuous that you have done nothing to help the white people of Mississippi and the nation to stop the progress of such Communistic organizations as the N.A.A.C.P. I am sure that you are aware of how these organizations intend to destroy the country.

I pointed out to you in my letter of August 23 the brainwashing every Southern boy faces when he reaches eighteen years of age. I have read nothing where you or any other Southern Senator has done anything to make it possible for a Southern white boy to serve his country and still keep his self-respect.

In closing let me make one request of you. When I read your next report, please show where you have stood before the world and let it be known that you are proud to be a white man and that you are going to help other white men keep their self-respect and heritage.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.
JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
EARLE C. CLEMENTS, KY.

STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.
WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.
EDWARD J. THYE, MINN.
JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY, WIS.
KARL E. MUNDT, S. DAK.
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
HENRY DWORSHAK, IDAHO
EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
CHARLES E. POTTER, MICH.

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
THOMAS J. SCOTT, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

September 16, 1955

Natchez, Mississippi

Dear Friend [REDACTED]:

I appreciate your letter of September 11th, and I also appreciate the spirit which prompted your letter. I have just noticed that my response to your letter of August 23rd was addressed to you at Post Office Box 124, Natchez, and I feel that perhaps our letters crossed in the mail. In any event, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to you of September 8th.

As for my annual report, this is, in a measure, a summary of the bills and various legislative matters which we had passed on directly during this last session, and that is the reason there is no mention of the racial problem. Along with you, I feel that the most serious and the gravest problem immediately facing us in Mississippi is the relationship between the two races. I am taking the liberty of enclosing you excerpts from a speech I made in Meridian on August 25, 1955, regarding this problem. In keeping with the information in my letter of September 8th regarding our fight here on legislation, I pray that we can always defeat any bill that may be up in the Congress implementing the present Supreme Court decision and making it a criminal offense for a school trustee to carry it out. There is no absolute answer to this grave problem, but I believe that partly through State law and partly through our efforts at the county level we shall be able to save our public schools without integrating them.

Again thanking you and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

Enc.